



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

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The latest aerial view of the Capitol Visitor Center taken April 12, 2006, shows most of the 200,000 paving stones in place across the East Front Plaza. Also visible are the completed tree beds along the north side of the East Capitol Street Extension (center foreground). The south side tree beds are now complete and 14 Tulip Poplar trees will be planted there this week. More than 50 additional trees will be planted in other areas within the East Capitol Grounds later this fall. Installation of the two large skylights (center of photo) above the Great Hall will begin this May.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 4/24/06 through 4/28/06

CVC and East Front Plaza:

- Masons have completed setting 900-lb. blocks of stone around the interior perimeter of the skylight at the south end of the Great Hall. Installation of the south skylight is expected to begin in early May. Masons have now begun preparing for installation of the sandstone blocks around the north skylight perimeter.
- Stone masons have completed major wall stone installation in the Great Hall. Ceiling inspections are ongoing and pending their completion in early May, drywall installation will begin on the framework of the Great Hall's three barrel-vaulted ceilings.
- Masons continue setting base stone and wall stone in the two lower levels and the Carriageway within the East Front transition zone.
- Masons continue setting floor stone along the east half of the CVC Exhibition Hall and have begun layout and base stone work on the west half of the Hall. This week, crews will continue assembling the scaffolding above the floor framework in the center zone of the Exhibition Hall. Only a small rolling scaffold will be needed to install the ceiling work above the floor stone areas.
- Masons have set granite pavers near the screening facility just north of the Senate Steps sufficient to open the sidewalk and adjacent steps to pedestrians. Also on the Senate Plaza, landscape crews have installed a new irrigation system and placed sod within the Senate Triangle near the North Gate Entrance.

- Landscape crews have completed planting 14 Tulip Poplar trees along the north stepped walkway leading to the CVC entrance from First Street NE and are now planting trees along the south entrance walkway.
- Masons have completed the major portion of granite paver installation (200,000 pieces) on the CVC roof deck. In May, crews will begin setting asphalt pavers in a more decorative pattern around the historic lanterns and fountains.
- Inside the House and Senate Expansion Space, crews continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and erect metal stud walls and drywall. Masons will continue setting stone in the House stairwell atrium and stone layout work has begun in the north atrium.
- All of the framing is complete on the upper level of the Senate Expansion Space. Wall “close-in” inspection work continues on the upper and lower level of the Senate Expansion Space and in the Service Level of the House Expansion Space.
- Demolition of a beam inside the East Front at the Rotunda level will continue this week during evening hours only and is expected to be completed by Friday, April 28.

East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- A 10-inch concrete slab is complete along East Capitol Street over the CVC utility tunnel. Crews may begin removal of a temporary bridge over First Street to begin preparing that zone for a concrete slab. Traffic lanes will shift slightly to the west and east accordingly over the next few weeks to accommodate the work. It is expected that new asphalt will be placed on top of the concrete later in May and the street will open to traffic soon thereafter, pending the completion of the street striping plan.
- Insulators and electricians continue working throughout the length of the tunnel and water lines are now being filled to prepare for hydrostatic testing, which will test the pipe seals at all of the connection points.

Next Week – 5/1/06 – 5/5/06

CVC, East Front Plaza Work, East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- Landscape crews are expected to complete the tree planting activities scheduled thus far along the north and south walls of the Congressional Auditorium.
- Drywall installation is expected to begin on the ceiling framework in the Great Hall.
- Floor stone installation will continue along the east and west sides of the Exhibition Hall. Ceiling framework may begin along the center zone of the Exhibition Hall where scaffolding has been erected (photo at right).
- Crews will continue to install ductwork and piping for all heating, cooling, supply, waste water, fire protection, and electrical systems; build mechanical spaces, install cable trays, and install finish stone in areas on the upper and lower levels of the facility.
- Installation of wall stone will continue inside the East Front transition zone.
- Crews will continue installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, metal stud walls, drywall and ductwork, and continue paint priming in various zones throughout the House and Senate Expansion Space. Stone installation will continue in the stairwell atrium on the House side and layout may begin in the Senate stairwell atrium. Wall and ceiling close-in inspections continue in several areas.
- Backfilling and other road restoration work will continue on First Street SE/NE to repair East Capitol Street. Traffic lanes may be shifted slightly to accommodate the work in this zone. Testing of the utility lines with water will continue.



A CVC worker secures a portion of a platform to a scaffold in the Exhibition Hall. The platform will allow ceiling work to begin while masons set floor stone in adjacent areas.